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Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NSCE-00 AGR-20 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 /164 W
---------- 017989
R 040922Z JUN 74
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1891
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0931

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR CH
SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR ON INTERNAL POLITICAL MOVEMENT AND HELICOPTER PILOTS

1. AT LUNCHEON CONVERSATION JUNE 4 SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR CHUKHROV TOOK SAME LINE THAT SOVIETS HAVE BEEN USING WITH OTHERS IN PEKING DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, ARGUING THAT INTERNAL POLITICAL CAMPAIGN HAS HAD DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON PRC INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION ARISING FROM CRITICISM OF PLAN MANAGERS AND FROM NUMBER OF WORKING HOURS ENGAGED IN STUDY SESSIONS. HE WAS MORE SPECIFIC THAN OTHERS, HOWEVER, CLAIMING TO HAVE INFORMATION THAT A MAJOR MEETING WAS CONVENED IN PEKING BY THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION APRIL 12-15 TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM. CHUKHROV CLAIMED THAT LI HSIEN-NIEN ADDRESSED THE MEETING, INFORMED THOSE PRESENT THAT PRODUCTION
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TARGETS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER HAD NOT BEEN MET, AND URGED

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THEM TO MAKE GREATER EFFORTS SO THAT SEMI-ANNUAL QUOTAS COULD BE REACHED. CHUKHROV FURTHER CLAIMED THAT CONCERN EXTENDED TO AGRICULTURE AS WELL AS INDUSTRY SINCE NORTH CHINA HAS HAD UNUSUALLY DRY SPRING.

2. WHEN USLO OFFICER COMMENTED THAT HE HAD SEEN FEWER BIG CHARACTER POSTERS THAN EXPECTED ON A RECENT TRIP, CHUKHROV SAID THAT HE THOUGHT CAMPAIGN MAY NOW BE IN A DIFFERENT STAGE. HE NOTED THE PROMINENCE GIVEN TO "THEORETICAL TEAMS" IN "RED FLAG" AND "PEOPLE'S DAILY", AND HE SPECULATED THAT PERHAPS THESE GROUPS ARE INTENDED TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF THE MOVEMENT'S OBJECTIVES AMONG THE MASSES OF WORKERS WHO ARE STILL CONFUSED.

3. ON CAPTURED SOVIET HELICOPTER PILOTS, CHUKHROV SAID CHINESE CONTINUED TO REFUSE ACCESS TO THEM AND SOVIET EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY ARE IN PEKING OR STILL HELD NEAR THE BORDER. CHINESE, HE SAID, CLAIM THEY ARE STILL INVESTIGATING THE CASE. HE REFERRED TO RUMORS IN PEKING THAT PILOTS WILL BE PLACED ON TRIAL, BUT AS IN PAST, HE DISCUSSED MATTER IN MATTER OF FACT WAY WITHOUT POLEMICS.

4. COMMENT: DROP IN CHINESE PRODUCTION AS RESULT OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGN IS STANDARD SOVIET LINE HERE, BUT CHUKHROV'S STORY ON STATE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING IS NEW TO US. IT MAY SIMPLY BE AN EMBELLISHMENT, BUT OCCASIONALLY SUCH SPECIFIC BITS OF INFORMATION FROM SOVIETS HAVE LATER CHECKED OUT.
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